

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



# **2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **MAYOR**

Vi Alexander Lyles

### **MAYOR PRO TEM**

Julie Eiselt

### **CITY COUNCIL**

Tariq Bokhari
Edmund H. Driggs
Larken Egleston
Malcolm Graham
Renee' Johnson
James Mitchell Jr.
Matt Newton
Victoria Watlington
Braxton Winston

### **CITY MANAGER**

Marcus D. Jones



**Vi Alexander Lyles** 

704.336.2241

Mayor mayor@charlottenc.gov

> 600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

704.336.4099

704.336.3185

**Julie Eiselt** 

Mayor Pro Tem Julie.Eiselt@charlottenc.gov

At-Large Representative 600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

**Braxton Winston** 

Councilmember Braxton.Winston@charlottenc.gov

At-Large Representative 600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

James Mitchell Jr. 704.336.3430

Councilmember James.Mitchell@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St. At-Large Representative Charlotte, NC 28202

**Dimple Tansen Ajmera** 704.336.2777

Councilmember Dimple.Ajmera@charlottenc.gov

At-Large Representative 600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

**Larken Egleston** 704.336.3433

Councilmember Larken.Egleston@charlottenc.gov

District 1 Representative 600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202













**Malcolm Graham** 

Councilmember

District 2 Representative

704.336.6105

Malcolm.Graham@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St.

Charlotte, NC 28202

**Victoria Watlington** 

Councilmember

District 3 Representative

704.336.3435

Victoria.Watlington@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St.

Charlotte, NC 28202

Renee' Johnson

Councilmember

District 4 Representative

704.336.3436

Renee.Johnson@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

**Matt Newton** 

Councilmember

District 5 Representative

704.336.3432

Matt.Newton@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

**Tariq Bokhari** 

Councilmember

District 6 Representative

704.336.3431

Tariq.Bokhari@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202

**Edmund H. Driggs** 

Councilmember

District 7 Representative

704.432.7077

edriggs@charlottenc.gov

600 E. Fourth St. Charlotte, NC 28202















### CHARLOTTE.

# MECKLENBURG STATE DELEGATION 2019 - 2020

NORTH CAROLINA STATE SENATE				
Member Information:	Legislative Office:	Preferred Mailing Address:		
37 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1104	P.O. Box 18515		
Jeff Jackson (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28218		
Attorney	(919) 715-8331	(919) 715-8331	10	
General Assembly Webpage	Jeff.Jackson@ncleg.net	Jeff.Jackson@ncleg.net	The same of the sa	
LA: Dylan Arant				
38 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 310	P.O. Box 30773		
Mujtaba A. Mohammed (D)	Raleigh, NC 27603	Charlotte, NC 28230		
Assistant Public Defender	(919) 733-5955	(919) 733-5955	1	
General Assembly Webpage	Mujtaba.Mohammed@ncleg.net	Mujtaba.Mohammed@ncleg.net		
A: Jordan Lopez				
9 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 2108	16 W. Jones Street, Rm. 2108		
Rob Bryan (R)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Raleigh, NC 27601		
Attorney	(919) 733-5655	(919) 733-5655	196	
General Assembly Webpage	Rob.Bryan@ncleg.net	Rob.Bryan@ncleg.net		
A: Connor Villas			Grin.	
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10 <sup>th</sup> Senate District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1113	8105-251 Old Concord Road		
oyce Waddell (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28216		
Education Consultant	(919) 733-5650	(919) 733-5650		
General Assembly Webpage	Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net	Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net		
A: Sheena McCoy	to y servi addence moreganice	Say	See Ile	
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11st Senate District	300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 519	300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 519		
Natasha R. Marcus (D)	Raleigh, NC 27603	Raleigh, NC 27603		
Not-for-Profit Executive	(919) 715-3050	(919) 715-3050		
General Assembly Webpage	Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.net	Natasha.Marcus@ncleg.net	1	
LA: Melanie Zimmerman				
			16	

	NORTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES				
Member Information:	Legislative Office:	Preferred Mailing Address:			
88 <sup>th</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1313	PO Box 33115			
Mary Belk (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28233			
Partner – New River Retreat Prop.	(919) 733-5607	(980) 579-2800			
General Assembly Webpage A: Ralph Belk	Mary.Belk@ncleg.net	Mary.Belk@ncleg.net			
2 <sup>nd</sup> House District	300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 403	11619 Hophornbeam Lane			
Chaz Beasley (D)	Raleigh, NC 27603	Charlotte, NC 28278			
Attorney	(919) 733-5654	(919) 733-5654			
General Assembly Webpage LA: Michael Wilson	Chaz.Beasley@ncleg.net	Chaz.Beasley@ncleg.net			
98 <sup>th</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1319	3902 Conner Glenn Drive			
Christy Clark (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Huntersville, NC 28078			
Paralegal	(919) 733-5828	(919) 733-5828			
General Assembly Webpage	Christy.Clark@ncleg.net	Christy.Clark@ncleg.net			
A: Beth Nichols					
99 <sup>th</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1008	5401 Rupert Lane			
lasif Majeed (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28215			
Businessman	(919) 733-5606	(704) 965-1153			
General Assembly Webpage  LA: Beverlee Baker	Nasif.Majeed@ncleg.net	Nasif.Majeed@ncleg.net			
100 <sup>th</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1019	PO Box 189113			
ohn Autry (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28218			
Freelance Media Production	(919) 715-0706	(704) 537-2735			
General Assembly Webpage  _A: Tina Riley-Humphrey	John.Autry@ncleg.net	John.Autry@ncleg.net			
101 <sup>st</sup> House District	300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 603	7216 Tall Tree Lane			
Carolyn G. Logan (D)	Raleigh, NC 27603	Charlotte, NC 28214			
Contractor – Atkins North America	(919) 715-2530	(919) 715-2530			
General Assembly Webpage LA: Robert Lockard, III	Carolyn.Logan@ncleg.net	Carolyn.Logan@ncleg.net			

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Member Information:	Legislative Office:	Preferred Mailing Address:	
102 <sup>nd</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1221	P.O. Box 32873	
Becky Carney (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte NC 28232	
Legislator	(919) 733-5827	(919) 733-5827	1/26
General Assembly Webpage	Becky.Carney@ncleg.net	Becky.Carney@ncleg.net	4
LA: Beth LeGrande			
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103 <sup>rd</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1111	3310 Windbluff Drive	• 🕎
Rachel Hunt (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28277	
Owner, Education Consulting Firm	(919) 733-5800	(704) 542-1650	
General Assembly Webpage LA: Kelly Russell	Rachel.Hunt@ncleg.net	Rachel.Hunt@ncleg.net	Q =
LA: Kelly Russell			
104 <sup>th</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1317	16 W. Jones Street, Rm. 1317	
Brandon Lofton (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Raleigh, NC 27601	
Lawyer	(919) 715-3009	(919) 715-3009	
General Assembly Webpage	Brandon.Lofton@ncleg.net	Brandon.Lofton@ncleg.net	
LA: Taylor Allen			
105 <sup>th</sup> House District	16 W. Jones St., Rm. 1321	3570 Toringdon Way, #4026	
Wesley Harris, PhD (D)	Raleigh, NC 27601	Charlotte, NC 28277	
Economic Consultant	(919) 733-5886	(919) 733-5886	90
General Assembly Webpage	Wesley.Harris@ncleg.net	Wesley.Harris@ncleg.net	The state of the s
LA: Suzanne Weiss			
106 <sup>th</sup> House District	300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 609	1400 Sansberry Road	
Carla D. Cunningham (D)	Raleigh, NC 27603	Charlotte NC 28262	
Registered Nurse	(919) 733-5807	(704) 509-2939	Mad
General Assembly Webpage	<u>Carla.Cunningham@ncleg.net</u>	<u>Carla.Cunningham@ncleg.net</u>	
LA: Sherrie Burnette			
107 <sup>th</sup> House District	300 N. Salisbury St., Rm. 404	1424 Statesville Avenue	
Kelly M. Alexander, Jr. (D)	Raleigh, NC 27603	Charlotte NC 28206	
Funeral Director	(919) 733-5778	(704) 333-1167	
General Assembly Webpage	Kelly.Alexander@ncleg.net	Kelly.Alexander@ncleg.net	
LA: Ann Raeford	Kenya desander ee noteganet	Kenya desander wholegaliet	
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## **Affordable Housing**

• Clarify State law to expressly authorize local governments to provide financial assistance to low and moderate income persons

### **Minimum Housing Standards**

• Support legislation strengthening North Carolina minimum housing standards including extending the authority to local governments to conduct testing for and enforcement of remediation of mold

### **North Carolina Search & Rescue Teams**

• Transition occasional annual funding to sustained, recurring funding in support of North Carolina Search & Rescue Teams



# 2020 State Legislative Agenda

**Issue:** Affordable Housing

**Position:** Clarify State law to expressly authorize local governments to provide

financial assistance to low and moderate-income persons

The City of Charlotte is addressing a 32,000-unit shortage of affordable housing through its Housing Charlotte Framework, which was adopted in August 2018. The Framework is built on the three pillars of expanding the supply of affordable housing, preserving the supply of affordable housing and supporting self-sufficiency efforts.

In November 2018, the voters of the City expressed their approval for expanding and preserving the supply of affordable housing by passing a \$50 million bond referendum for these purposes by a margin of 68% to 32%. Private and philanthropic sector partners have contributed another \$53 million in land and financial commitments to address affordable housing throughout the City. Even though it has raised considerable funds for affordable housing, the City needs additional legislative authority from the State government to address the shortage of affordable housing.

Under the pillar of self-sufficiency, the City has identified clarifying changes to housing statutes that would prove helpful in addressing gentrification and displacement issues that are widespread throughout our community. The clarifications requested specify that cities may provide rent subsidies and relocation assistance to low- and moderate-income persons regardless of whether the source of funding is federal or local. The necessary amending language has been incorporated into Section 5 of the Municipal Omnibus Bill (HB 557 – Ross and Adcock). Since HB 557 passed the House in the 2019 long session, it is eligible for consideration in the 2020 short session.

The City is working collaboratively with the North Carolina League of Municipalities and North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition on this request.



# 2020 State Legislative Agenda

**Issue:** Minimum Housing Standards

Position: Support legislation strengthening North Carolina minimum housing

standards including extending the authority to local governments to

conduct testing for and enforcement of remediation of mold

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Any loss of the current supply of naturally occurring affordable housing serves mainly to put more pressure to build more affordable housing. Recent code enforcement issues concerning a privately-owned apartment complex that provides housing for low and moderate-income households has heightened awareness of shortcomings in the minimum housing standards statutes. The code enforcement issues have demonstrated the need to consider amendments that include the requirement for mold remediation.

Representatives Chaz Beasley and Mary Belk introduced HB 1012, Safety Updates for Rental Properties. Since HB 1012 includes an appropriation, it is eligible for consideration in 2020. House Bill 1012 is opposed by the Apartment Association of North Carolina.



Issue: North Carolina Search & Rescue Teams

**Position:** Transition occasional annual funding to sustained funding in support of

North Carolina Search & Rescue Teams

The events of 9/11 prompted the State of North Carolina to establish search and rescue teams. Regional teams were contracted by the State to provide specialized rescue capabilities in seven regionally separated areas. The seven teams are operated by fire departments in Buncombe County, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Raleigh and Wilmington/New Hanover County. Over the years, the teams have deployed on over 130 federal, State and local missions. During Hurricane Matthew in 2016, for example, the teams rescued 2,336 people.

The equipment needed to outfit the teams was funded using federal grants. Today, the seven teams have \$14.5 million of total assets including over 150 specialty vehicles and highly specialized rescue gear. Much of the equipment in this inventory is nearing the end of its useful life and needs programmatic replacement. There is also a need to provide resources to store and maintain the equipment in anticipation of future training and deployments. The lack of sustained funding does not provide a stable platform for the teams to plan for the future.

The North Carolina General Assembly appropriated one-time dollars of \$1 million for FY 2020 in a 2019 long session mini-budget bill, but this funding is not recurring, sustained funding. Recurring, sustained funding was included in the 2019 Appropriations Act, HB 966, but this Act became the subject of the budget standoff between the Governor and the General Assembly.

The City is working with the North Carolina Coalition of Metropolitan Fire Chiefs, other fire safety organizations, and the other six local fire departments operating such teams in support of this request.